

Environment/Legislative Update

**FARM
BUREAU**
NORTH CAROLINA

NC Aquaculture Association
September 10, 2015



Environment

- EPA - Clean Water Act
- NPDES Permits – authorize wastewater discharges
- DENR - Delegated authority from EPA for NPDES permitting



Environment

- NPDES Permits – Required for aquaculture if:
 - 30 days of discharge per year
 - Trout farms over 20,000 lbs production and 5,000 lbs feed in one month
- Hybrid Striped Bass farms over 100,000 lbs annual production (pond systems)
- Not required for catfish farms
- As required by DENR if a significant contributor of pollutants

Environment

- NPDES Permits
 - Trout – 35
 - Hybrid Striped Bass – 8
 - Packing Houses – 30
 - Other – 11



Environment

- General NPDES Permit
 - Effluent limits
 - One sample per year
 - BMP plan
 - Recordkeeping – 3 years



Environment

- BMP Plan - Discharge management
 - What steps are taken to reduce discharge of solids?
 - How is feed managed?



Environment

- O&M Plan
 - Materials management
 - Inspections
 - Spill prevention and response
 - Training



Environment

- General Permit – Effluent limits
 - Effluent Limits
 - Suspended Solids
 - Dissolved Oxygen
- 5-year permit cycle - expires July 2017
- Renewal applications due January 2017

Environment

- Sampling Requirements
 - Where do I take my samples?
 - DWR maintains a list of certified labs:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/lab/cert/certlablists>
 - Samples have holding time and temperature requirements. Contact the lab prior to pulling samples for info.
 - Many labs will come on-site to take samples

Environment

- Records
 - BMP Plan
 - Discharge dates
 - Feed conversion info
 - O&M Plan
 - Permit copy
 - Sample results



Legislative Update

- Farm Act of 2015 – SB 513
- Mining Act changes
 - Currently a mining permit could be required if soil is hauled off site during pond construction.
 - Change to exempt agricultural activities from permitting requirements
- Present Use Value
 - Would specify that farms that are incorporated are still eligible for PUV.
 - PUV status in one county establishes a presumption of PUV status for other counties

Legislative Update

- Budget – HB97
- Many provisions similar to HB302
- Similar provisions in SB573
- Sales Tax –would make sales tax applicable to:
 - Services rendered for repair/maintenance of private property (vehicles, equipment, etc.)
 - Veterinary services
- Subject to legislature negotiations

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Questions?

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Legislative Update

- HB302 – Strengthen Oyster Industry
 - Study to improve private shellfish industry
 - Penalties for taking shellfish from a lease or sanctuary
 - Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture reinstated
 - Modify Oyster Sanctuaries in Pamlico Sound
 - Core Sound shellfish leasing proposal

Legislative Update

- Session Law 2015-63
- Encourages Community Colleges to offer courses on Commercial Fishing and Aquaculture – but provides no resources
- Requires a report on any fiscal issues that limit the ability to offer the courses

